

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

1.-24. (Canceled)

25. **(Currently Amended)** A conjugated 4-pregnen-21-hydroxy or 1,4-pregnadiene-21-hydroxy steroid, wherein the conjugant group pends from the steroid 21 hydroxyl group, **which conjugant group** ~~and comprises a neurotrophin or a neurotrophin~~ **nerve growth factor (NGF) or NGF** receptor-binding fragment thereof.

26. **(Previously Presented)** The conjugated steroid of claim 25, having a 21-carbamate linkage to the conjugant group.

27. **(Previously Presented)** The conjugated steroid of claim 25, having a 21-phosphoramidate linkage to the conjugant group.

28. **(Currently Amended)** The conjugated steroid of any one of claims 25 - 27, wherein the ~~neurotrophin or neurotrophin~~ **NGF or NGF receptor-binding** fragment pends covalently through a lysine residue epsilon amino group.

29. **(Currently Amended)** The conjugated steroid of claim 26, wherein the ~~neurotrophin or neurotrophin~~ **NGF or NGF receptor binding** fragment pends covalently through a thiolated lysine residue epsilon amino group.

30. **(Previously Presented)** The conjugated steroid of claim 28, wherein the steroid is a corticosteroid.

31. **(Currently Amended)** The conjugated steroid of claim 30, wherein the corticosteroid is ~~selected from the group consisting of:~~ cortisone, betamethasone, dexamethasone, triamcinolone acetonide, ~~and~~ **or** fluocinolone acetonide.

32. **(Previously Presented)** The conjugated steroid of claim 30, wherein the steroid is triamcinolone acetonide.

33. **(Previously Presented)** The conjugated steroid of claim 30, wherein the steroid is fluocinolone acetonide.

34. **(Canceled)**

35. **(Currently Amended)** The conjugated steroid of claim ~~34~~ **28**, wherein the ~~neurotrophin is~~ conjugant group comprises NGF ~~nerve growth factor (NGF).~~

36. **(Previously Presented)** The conjugated steroid of claim 35, wherein the conjugant group comprises a nerve growth factor (NGF) fragment capable of binding to trkA receptors and being internalized therewith.

37. **(Canceled)**

38. **(Canceled)**

39. **(Previously Presented)** The conjugated steroid of claim 25, in which triamcinolone acetonide is conjugated by a 21-carbamate linkage to nerve growth factor (NGF), or to a receptor-binding fragment of NGF, which pends covalently through a lysine residue epsilon amino group.

40. **(Previously Presented)** The conjugated steroid of claim 25, in which fluocinolone acetonide is conjugated by a 21-carbamate linkage to nerve growth factor (NGF) or a receptor-binding fragment of NGF, which pends covalently through a lysine residue epsilon amino group.

41. **(Previously Presented)** The conjugated steroid of claim 30, wherein the steroid is betamethasone.

42. **(Previously Presented)** The conjugated steroid of claim 30, wherein the steroid is dexamethasone.

43. **(Previously Presented)** The conjugated steroid of claim 25, in which betamethasone is conjugated by a 21-phosphoramidate linkage to nerve growth factor (NGF) or a receptor-binding fragment of NGF, which pends covalently through a lysine residue epsilon amino group.

44. **(Previously Presented)** The conjugated steroid of claim 25, in which dexamethasone is conjugated by a 21-phosphoramidate linkage to nerve growth factor (NGF) or a receptor-binding fragment of NGF, which pends covalently through a lysine residue epsilon amino group.

45. **(New)** The conjugated steroid of claim 30, wherein the steroid is cortisone.

46. **(New)** The conjugated steroid of claim 25, in which cortisone is conjugated by a 21-carbamate linkage to nerve growth factor (NGF), or to a receptor-binding fragment of NGF, which pends covalently through a lysine residue epsilon amino group.